



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County  
Board of Supervisors**

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

**John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.**  
Interim Director

**Robert G. Splawn, M.D.**  
Interim Chief Medical Officer

313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 912  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: 213-240-8101  
Fax: 213-481-0503

[www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov)

*To improve health  
through leadership,  
service and education*

September 8, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM ASTHMA & ALLERGY  
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval to accept grant funds from the California Chapter of the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America for continued support of a school-based asthma treatment program.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize the Interim Director of Health Services, or his designee, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$49,232 for the continued support of the Department of Health Services' (DHS) mobile asthma treatment program.
2. Delegate authority to the Interim Director of Health Services, or his designee, to accept future grants and/or equipment from the California Chapter of the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA).

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Approval of the first recommendation will allow DHS to accept a grant of \$49,232 from AAFA to offset some of the ongoing operating costs of a school-based asthma treatment program.

Approval of the second recommendation will allow DHS to continue to accept anticipated donations of funds and/or equipment from AAFA for the program in a timely manner.

[www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov)



### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

These actions support Goal 4, Health and Mental Health, of the County's Strategic Plan.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The donation of \$49,232 will continue to offset some of the costs of the school-based asthma treatment program. The program is staffed with items budgeted through DHS' Clinical Resource Management at LAC+USC Medical Center. Funding for the entire program is included in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Final Budget.

The Department will pursue all available funding sources, such as grants to further offset ongoing program costs. It should be noted that all patients are screened by an on-site patient resources worker, and all qualified patients receive assistance in completing applications for Medi-Cal or other appropriate third-party payer programs.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On October 31, 1995, your Board approved a lease agreement with AAFA and a Memorandum Of Understanding with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for the implementation of a school-based asthma treatment program. Services are provided on Mobile Clinics known as "Breathmobiles." In subsequent amendments, the number of Breathmobiles donated to DHS by AAFA has increased to five. The lease agreement terminated when the last Breathmobile was donated to DHS.

At the beginning of the program, one Breathmobile provided services to 18 schools in the LAUSD. In 2000, the Montebello Unified School District joined the program. In 2008, touch screen monitors were added to the Breathmobiles to facilitate assessment, treatment and follow-up of patients. The program now serves 93 schools.

The Breathmobiles are staffed by a team of asthma care specialists. Each student receives a comprehensive evaluation. No child is denied treatment due to lack of funds. This preventative health care program improves quality of life and reduces the morbidity associated with asthma. By focusing on this school age population, emergency room visits and hospitalizations have decreased significantly.

On May 2, 2008, this program was the first in the United States to receive the Certificate of Distinction for disease-specific care by The Joint Commission. The program also won the National Association of Counties' 2009 Achievement Award. DHS continues to provide these critical services with the support of the AAFA.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
September 8, 2009  
Page 3

County Counsel has reviewed Exhibit I, the grant donation letter, as to form.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Approval of the recommended actions will ensure continued operation of DHS' award-winning effective asthma treatment program.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.  
Interim Director

JFS:agl

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Acting County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Breathmobile BL



# ASTHMA & ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

5900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 710 • Los Angeles, California 90036  
Phone: (323) 937-7859 • Toll Free: (800) 624-0044 • Fax: (323) 937-7815  
Website: [www.aafa-ca.org](http://www.aafa-ca.org) • Email: [BreathingMatters@aafa-ca.org](mailto:BreathingMatters@aafa-ca.org)

EXHIBIT I

June 19, 2009

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS 2007 – 2009

Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta  
*President*

Jonathan Goldstein  
*Vice President*

Doris T. Luster\*  
*Vice President*

Susan Woolley, Esq.  
*Vice President*

Karen Maiorca, RN  
*Secretary*

Nureet Druyen, RN  
*Treasurer*

### DIRECTORS 2007 - 2008

Mary Anderson, MA, MEd

Melissa TM De Chandt

Michael Druyen

Robert Eitches, MD

Jean Hanley-Lopez, MD

Richard Harris, MD

Michael Ingram

Marion Johnson, MD

Michael Kaplan, MD

Susan La Combe, RN

Jerome Lipin, MD

Arnold Luster

Marj Malloy\*

Jacob Offenberger, MD

Luis F. Saca, MD

Jon Schnitzer

Sheldon C. Siegel, MD (Founder)\*

Margaret L. Soderberg, MD

Anne Staveren, MD

Ricardo Tan, MD

Carl Terzian

Helene Wernick\*

Marvin Wernick\*

Robert Wyman, Esq.

David Zaslow, CPA

Ulrike Ziegner, MD, PhD

John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.

Interim Director

Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services

313 N. Figueroa St., Ste 912

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Dr. Schunhoff,

The Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), California Chapter, is pleased to inform you that we received additional grant funds from BP West Coast Products and AQMD that will enable us to offer you additional support for the Breathmobile program in Los Angeles, specifically in support of the agreement (H-205253) between AAFA and Los Angeles County - Department of Health Services school-based Asthma program.

AAFA will provide funding for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year in support of the 5<sup>th</sup> mobile unit operations in the combined amount of \$49,232, of which \$41,732 will be used to offset ½ the salary costs for an existing registered nurse, Gloria Wessel, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and \$3,750 in operating costs for each year. The funds will be used to reimburse various operating costs and ½ of the salary of a registered nurse, as identified in Appendix A.

In addition, AAFA will provide reimbursement for a physician's salary in the amount of \$213,268 to be paid directly to the USC Keck School of Medicine. This amount provides for a physician's full salary of \$135,768 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and ½ a physician's salary of \$77,500 for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. The USC Keck School of Medicine shall provide monthly invoices for reimbursement of the physician salary to AAFA. AAFA will reimburse within 30 days of receipt of invoices(s).

Sincerely,

Felita Jones  
Breathmobile Project Manager

Executive Director  
Francene J. Lifson

\*Past President



---

# **ASTHMA & ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA**

---

5900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 710 • Los Angeles, California 90036  
Phone: (323) 937-7859 • Toll Free: (800) 624-0044 • Fax: (323) 937-7815  
Website: [www.aafa-ca.org](http://www.aafa-ca.org) • Email: [BreathingMatters@aafa-ca.org](mailto:BreathingMatters@aafa-ca.org)

## **APPENDIX A**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR BUDGET**

½ RN Salary	\$41,732
Supplies, gas, maintenance, insurance	\$ 3,750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 45,482</b>

### **4<sup>th</sup> YEAR BUDGET**

Supplies, gas, maintenance, insurance	\$ 3,750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,750</b>
 <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	 <b>\$49,232</b>